

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

September 4, 2012

Worldwide, there are more deaths due to suicide than to accidents, homicides, and war combined. Every single death leaves devastated friends and family in its wake. In the United States, a person dies by suicide every 15 minutes, claiming more than 36,000 lives a year. Suicide is the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S. among adults 18-65, the second leading cause of death among teens and young adults, and seniors ages 65 and older account for 16 percent of all suicide deaths. This is a public health issue that does not discriminate by age, gender, ethnicity or socio-economic status.

As the Board of Supervisors, we are concerned about these devastating incidents. We have various services and programs in our County, but we need to continue to inform our constituents that suicide is not the only answer. If they are experiencing a suicidal crisis or emotional distress, they can call the 24-hour Suicide Hotline for help at 1-877-7-CRISIS or 1-877-727-4747.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS :

1. Declare the week of September 10, 2012 as Suicide Prevention Week in the County of Los Angeles; and
2. Encourage County departments and funded agencies to inform the public of the availability of the 24-hour Suicide Hotline number which is 1-877-7-CRISIS or 1-877-727-4747; and
3. Encourage County residents to support and participate in the Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services' 14th Annual Alive and Running 5K Walk/Run for Suicide Prevention on Sunday, September 23, 2012 in Westchester.

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RE:eg